The UC Davis Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC) requests submission of proposals in response to this call for highly innovative projects to be conducted during the 2011-2012 academic year. These awards are intended to support highly innovative projects that have the potential for unusually high impact, and will provide crucial preliminary data for new extramural grant submissions. The review process will emphasize creativity, innovation of the research approaches, novel technologies, and the potential of the project, if successful, to have a significant impact on an important clinical and translational research problem.

Funds will be available for up to $50,000 in total costs for a 12-month period beginning November 1, 2011. Support may be provided for salary, supplies, and other research-related expenses; funds may not be used to purchase equipment or for travel expenses. The proposal must include at least one trainee at the predoctoral or postdoctoral/clinical fellow level, and the role of the trainee in the project must be very clearly defined, with a mentoring plan. Criteria in the review of the applications includes the use of CTSC resources for the proposed project; applicants are encouraged to contact program directors for assistance (see CTSC website - http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/ctsc/).

Purpose: The UC Davis CTSC provides an academic home for clinical and translational research and is focused on speeding improvements in human health by reducing barriers in health-relevant research. The goal of the CTSC Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies Program is to enhance and augment research areas crucial to translational research by providing support for novel research projects, the development of new teams and partnerships, high risk/high impact research, and proposals that include trainees. In addition, the Program fosters new multidisciplinary collaborations that will enhance the integration of new technologies. For this call for applications, highly innovative methods and techniques from multidisciplinary teams that include trainees in their proposals are of primary interest. Potential applicants are encouraged to link basic, translational, and clinical researchers, and submissions that might have commercialization potential are encouraged. Applicants can review projects previously funded through this mechanism on the CTSC website (http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/ctsc/areas/pilot/fundedProjects.html)

Eligibility: All full-time members of the UC Davis faculty, including faculty in the adjunct or research series.

Application Procedure: Proposals are requested using the 5-page form that can be downloaded from the CTSC website (http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/ctsc/areas/pilot.html). The submission must include an NIH biographical sketch for each participating investigator including predoctoral or postdoctoral (Ph.D. or clinical fellow) trainees. Deadline date for receipt is October 3, 2011.

Submitted proposals must use the following format and adhere to the requirements of the form:

• Specific Aims and Hypotheses
• Background and Significance
• Plan (how the proposed study is highly innovative and addresses an important problem in a unique way)
• Rationale for Requested Funding and Planned Extramural Submissions
• Role of trainee(s) and plans for mentoring
• If prior funding from the CTSC how this application represents a new and unique research direction

Additional Requirements: The names of all investigators funded through the CTSC Pilot Translational and Clinical Studies Program will be posted on the CTSC website. In addition, all investigators and their trainees must participate in the annual CTSC retreat and/or associated workshops and symposia, acknowledge the CTSC base-operating grant in any abstracts or publications resulting from supported studies, and provide quarterly progress reports and a final report.

Application receipt deadline: October 3, 2011
Earliest funding start date: November 1, 2011

Each P.I. may submit one proposal only. Please send a pdf version of the application on the deadline date to: aftarantal@ucdavis.edu

For questions, please contact:
Lars Berglund, M.D., Ph.D. (lars.berglund@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu)
Alice F. Tarantal, Ph.D. (aftarantal@ucdavis.edu)